



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278-0090

6 Feb 14

Programs and Project Management Division

Mr. Raymond Basso
Lower Passaic River Project Director
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
290 Broadway
New York, New York 10007-1866

Dear Mr. Basso:

Thank you for your letter of January 22, 2014 requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (District), provide input to the Lower Passaic River Remedial Investigation with respect to the federal authorized navigation channel. The District strongly agrees with USEPA Region II's inclusion of the authorized channel within the lower 2.2 miles of the Passaic River to accommodate navigation interests through the selected alternative outlined in the Draft Proposed Plan. The remedy needs to address and accommodate current and future commercial use of the river.

The District's 2010 Commercial Navigation Analysis, public outreach that was conducted cooperatively with USEPA in 2009, and the 2011 Waterborne Commerce Data (<http://www.navigationdatacenter.us/wcsc/pdf/wcusatl11.pdf>) documented usage of the channel system and future needs. Statistics from the last year analyzed (2011) indicate a significant volume (total of 2,615,000 short tons) of waterborne commerce was transported that year within the Lower Passaic River. The current and projected future level of commercial traffic is sufficient to justify maintenance dredging of the channel should it be required, subject to budget limitations.

The District appreciates our continued partnership and USEPA's recent progress towards the remediation of the Lower Passaic River. USEPA's remedial action is critical to restoring the navigation channel for the viability and economic sustainability of the area and its users. The action is also critical to minimize the transport of contaminated sediment throughout the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE), reduce the environmental and human health risks within the region, and allow the advancement of ecosystem restoration within the Lower Passaic and the HRE. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the Lower Passaic River Project Manager, Ms. Lisa Baron at 917-790-8306.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Seebode
Deputy District Engineer
For Programs and Project Management

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